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"Holding forth the Word of Life."

THANKSGIVING
SERVICE 1897

MISSION SCHOOL WORK

IN THE SOUTHWEST

WOMAN'S BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
156 Fifth Avenue, New York City, N. Y.

A TYPICAL HOME IN NEW MEXICO.

PROGRAMME

Hymn of Praise.

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee:
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! though the darkness hide thee,
Though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see;
Only thou art holy; there is none beside thee;
Perfect in power, in love and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky and sea;
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Reading (in concert), - - - - - - Ps. 95: 1–7

1. O come let us sing unto the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.

2. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms.

3. For the Lord is a great God, and a King above all Gods.

4. In his hand are the deep places of the earth; the strength of the hills is his also.

5. The sea is his and he made it; and his hands formed the dry land.

6. O come let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.

7. For he is our God; and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING.

Hymn.

How precious is the book divine,
By inspiration given!
Bright as a lamp its doctrines shine,
To guide our souls to heaven.

O'er all the strait and narrow way
Its radiant beams are cast;
A light whose never weary ray
Grows brightest at the last.

The Bible: The Nation's Defence (responsively).

This is the message which we have heard of him and declare unto you, that God is light and in him is no darkness at all.—1 John i: 5.

God who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.—II Cor. iv: 6.

If we walk in the light as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another.—I John i: 7.

The entrance of thy word giveth light.—Ps. cxix: 130.

Thy word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against thee.—Ps. cxix: 11.

Thy word is true from the beginning, and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth forever.—Ps. cxix: 160.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.—Ps. cxix: 105.

When thou goest, it shall lead thee; when thou sleepest, it shall keep thee; and when thou awakest, it shall talk with thee. For the commandment is a lamp and the law is light.—Prov. vi: 22, 23.

Ye were sometimes darkness, but now ye are light in the Lord; walk as children of light.—Eph. v: 8.

Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him, who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.—I Peter ii: 9.

Supt.—Are there not parts of our country where the marvelous light of the gospel does not shine?

Girls—There are many sections where the word of God is unknown.

Boys—There are sections, too, where the Bible is perverted, as among the Mormons in Utah, and among the Spanish-speaking people of New Mexico.

Supt.—Whose work is it to spread the true gospel throughout the land?

Girls—It is the duty of every American, old and young, whom God has blessed, to help make our land a Christian land.

Boys—The Bible is the Nation's sure defence. "Receive, I pray thee, the law from his mouth, and lay up his words in thine heart. If thou return to the Almighty, thou shalt be built up, thou shalt put away iniquity far from thy tabernacles. . . . Yea, the Almighty shall be thy defence."—Job xxii: 22, 23, 25.

Hymn.

My country! 'tis of thee,
Sweet land of liberty,
Of thee I sing;
Land where my fathers died!
Land of the Pilgrims' pride!
From every mountain side
Let freedom ring!

My native country, thee—
Land of the noble, free—
Thy name I love;
I love thy rocks and rills,
Thy woods and templed hills;
My heart with rapture thrills
Like that above.

Our fathers' God! to thee,
Author of Liberty,
To thee we sing;
Long may our land be bright
With freedom's holy light;
Protect us by thy might,
Great God, Our King!

The Mormons.

Leader—Who are the Mormons?

Girls—The Mormons are a people who, while pretending to base their religion on Bible principles, substitute the religious belief of Joseph Smith for the Word of God.

Boys—They live in Utah and the adjoining Territories, occupying in all about 350,000 square miles of good agricultural land.

L.—What are some of the doctrines taught by the Mormons?

Girls—That God is a man; that there are many gods, and that Adam is the God of this world.

HOME OF THE FIRST MISSION TEACHER IN UTAH.

Boys—They teach that their priesthood receive "revelations" which are binding, even though contrary to the Scriptures.

Girls—They teach also, that they are "to possess this country;" that, "their church is a kingdom both temporal and spiritual, set up to overthrow and dominate every other government on earth."

L.—Do the Mormons take active measures to spread their doctrines?

Boys—Every year hundreds of Mormon Missionaries are sent out; they are found in almost every State and Territory in the Union.

Girls—They are establishing Missions in all our large cities, having, at the present time, headquarters in San Francisco, Chicago and Brooklyn.

L.—Is there danger to our country from their teachings?

Boys—The Bible is the Nation's sure defence; any teaching which tends to overthrow God's Word menaces our National life.

All—Therefore it is our duty to send forth those who will teach the children and youth the truth as it is given in God's Word, before their minds have been poisoned by false doctrines.

Reading. "CAPITOLA," - - - - - (A True Story)

Hymn.

Saviour, blessed Saviour,
Listen while we sing,
Hearts and voices raising
Praises to our King.
All we have to offer,
All we hope to be,
Body, soul and spirit,
All we yield to thee.

Clearer still and clearer
Dawns the light from heaven,
In our sadness bringing
News of sin forgiven.
Life has lost its shadows,
Pure the light within;
Thou hast shed thy radiance
On a world of sin.

CAPITOLA'S HOME.

The Mexicans.

Leader—What other class of people in the Southwest have not the Word of God in its purity?

Boys—The Mexicans, or the Spanish-speaking people of our country.

Girls—The Mexicans are a Mixed race of Spanish and Indian, though some are of pure Spanish origin.

L.—What are some of their characteristics?

Boys—They are mainly indolent, indifferent and superstitious. While a few are even highly educated, as a class they are densely ignorant.

Girls—Very few of the Mexican women can read or write, and it is estimated that at least five-sixths of all the children are growing up without opportunities for even an elementary education.

L.—What is their religious belief?

Boys—They are largely under the power of the Romish priests, who prey upon their fears and superstitions. "They are idolaters, many of them having no greater ambition than to care for a piece of wood carved into what they call a saint."

YOUNG CITIZENS OF NEW MEXICO.

Girls—A class called the "Penitentes" practice cruel religious rites, such as carrying heavy crosses, till they sink beneath the load, and whipping themselves till the blood flows down their backs.

L.—"Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart. But ye have not so learned Christ." . . . "Therefore hear the word of my mouth, and give them understanding for me.—Eph. iv: 18, 20; Ezek. iii: 17.

Reading, - - - - - - - - "BENITO."

Hymn.

Christ for the world we sing;
The world to Christ we bring,
With loving zeal;
The poor, and them that mourn,
The faint and overborne,
Sin-sick and sorrow worn,
Whom Christ doth heal.

Christ for the world we sing;
The world to Christ we bring,
With loving song;
The new-born souls, whose days,
Reclaimed from error's ways,
Inspired with hope and praise,
To Christ belong.

Leader—How can these people of the Southwest be elevated and become enlightened citizens and a power for good in our country?

School—Only through the instrumentality of Christian education and the preaching of the gospel.

L.—What is the agency of our church that seeks to lay the foundation of Bible knowledge among these people of the Southwest?

School—The Woman's Board of Home Missions, which plants Mission training schools among them.

L.—What has been done by the Woman's Board of Home Missions to carry the gospel into Utah and New Mexico?

Boys—Schools have been established where the systematic study of the Bible forms the important part of the school course.

Girls—There are, among the Mormons and Mexicans, sixty-one Mission schools, with an attendance of over thirty-seven hundred pupils.

L.—What are some of the results of this work?

Boys—As the outgrowth of the school work, twenty-six churches have been organized among the Mormons, which are regularly supplied with preaching by missionaries under the Board of Home Missions.

Girls—A deep and wide-spread interest in the Bible is growing in New Mexico. The people are asking for more schools. Some of the young men who have been educated in our schools are now studying for the ministry, and some are already preaching the glad tidings of salvation.

L.—What would be the result if these Mission schools were withdrawn?

All—It would abandon those who are now being taught the Word of God in truth, to either Mormon or Romish influence.

L.—What instructions has God given us concerning the studying and teaching of the word?

All—"Ye shall lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul."—Deut. xi: 18.

"Ye shall teach them to your children, speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house and when thou walkest in the way, when thou liest down and when thou risest up."—Deut. xi: 19.

"This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth, but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein."—Joshua i: 8

"RAPID TRANSIT" IN NEW MEXICO.

L.—What promise is made to the nations who observe God's Law?

All—"It shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe and do all his commandments, which I command thee this day; that the Lord thy God will set thee on high above all Nations of the earth."—Deut. xxviii: 1.

OFFERING.

Prayer (For the Mission School Work, for which the Offering is made).

Lord! while for all mankind we pray,
Of every clime and coast,
Oh, hear us for our native land,
The land we love the most.

Here may religion, pure and mild,
Smile on our Sabbath hours;
And piety and virtue bless
The home of us and ours.

Lord of the nations, thus to thee
Our country we commend;
Be thou her refuge and her trust,
Her everlasting friend.

Benediction.

CHAPEL AND GIRLS' HOME, MT. PLEASANT, UTAH.